

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

NSCE-00 USSS-00 IO-10 A-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02

SCCT-01 ACDA-05 SY-05 /087 W  
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R 052100Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4013

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: THREAT AGAINST MORMON MISSION, BUENOS AIRES

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 2300 JANUARY 3, 1976 MSG ON DUTY RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM JOHN A. HARRIS PRESIDENT OF THE MORMON MISSION, BUENOS AIRES NORTH. HARRIS REPORTED THAT TELEPHONE THREAT HAD BEEN RECEIVED AT THE MISSION OFFICE IN THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 3.

2. DUTY OFFICER CONTACTED HARRIS AND WAS FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING: AT 1430 HOURS JAMES M. MAUGHAN (ELDER MORMON CHURCH) WAS ON DUTY AT THE MISSION OFFICE, VIRREY DEL PINO 2130 IN BELGRANO FEDERAL CAPITAL. HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN APPARENTLY ARGENTINE SPANISH SPEAKING FEMALE WHO STATED "TAKE YOUR MISSIONARIES OUT OF THE CAPITAL OR WE WILL KILL THEM ALL." HARRIS INFORMED DUTY OFFICER THAT HE DID NOT RECEIVE THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CALL UNTIL 2000 HOURS JANUARY 3 AND DELIBERATED BEFORE CONTACTING THE EMBASSY AT 2300. HE ADVISED THAT HE HAD NOT CONTACTED HIGHER CHURCH AUTHORITIES, ARGENTINE POLICE, BUT WOULD WAIT THE ADVICE OF THE EMBASSY. HARRIS ADVISED THAT WITHIN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL OF BUENOS AIRES THERE WERE 30 AMERICAN

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MISSIONARIES AND THAT WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES

THERE WERE 200. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE RATIO OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES TO ARGENTINE MISSIONARIES WAS 17 AMERICANS TO ONE ARGENTINE.

3. AMBASSADOR AND SECURITY OFFICE INFORMED. DUTY OFFICER SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED HARRIS THAT IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT HE INFORM HIS HIGHER CHURCH AUTHORITIES OF THE INCIDENT AND IMMEDIATELY REPORT THE MATTER TO THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE. ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN HARRIS, THE DUTY OFFICER, AND THE SECURITY OFFICER FOR THE MORNING OF JANUARY 4. (HARRIS LATER ADVISED HE DID MAKE PHONE CONTACT MORNING 4 JAN WITH APPROPRIATE CHURCH AUTHORITY IN SALT LAKE CITY.)

4. ON JANUARY 4, 1976, HARRIS ALONG WITH THREE ELDERS FROM HIS CHURCH, DUTY OFFICER AND THE SENIOR RSO MET IN THE SECURITY OFFICE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. MAUGHAN RELATED TO THE GROUP THE NATURE OF THE CALL. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION HARRIS ADVISED THAT IN ONE OF THE MISSION GROUPS WITHIN BUENOS AIRES A PROBLEM HAD ARISEN WITHIN THE LAST TWO MONTHS WITH ONE OF THE MEMBERS. HE STATED THAT THIS PARTICULAR MEMBER WAS CONNECTED WITH THE ERP. HIS NAME HAD APPEARED IN THE PAPER AS A TERRORIST AND HE WAS BEING SOUGHT BY THE POLICE. HE FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE CHURCH WAS PLANNING TO TAKE ACTION BY MEANS OF A FORMAL NOTICE TO THE MEMBER THAT HE SHOULD APPEAR BEFORE A CHURCH BOARD TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE SHOULD BE RETAINED IN THE CHURCH. HARRIS SOLICITATED THE ADVICE ON WHETHER SUCH A NOTICE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE ERP MEMBER. THE SECURITY OFFICER RECOMMENDED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE THREAT CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO NOT EXECUTING THE NOTICE OF A CHURCH TRIAL AT THIS TIME. SINCE THE LETTER SHOULD HAVE TO BE SIGNED AND IT MIGHT ELEVATE THE TARGET PROFILE OF THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNING THE LETTER. HARRIS COULD NOT FURNISH THE NAME OF THE MEMBER IN QUESTION BUT STATED HE WOULD ADVISE THE SECURITY OFFICER OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S IDENTITY. HARRIS AND THE GROUP WITH HIM WERE PRESENTED WITH A SET OF INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING SECURITY MEASURES NORMALLY GIVEN TO U.S. BUSINESSMEN. HE ADVISED THAT HE WOULD MAKE THESE AVAILABLE TO HIS MISSIONARIES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT SINCE THEY ALREADY HAD INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES SUCH INSTRUCTIONS WOULD NOT SEEM UNUSUAL.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS MEETING SENIOR SECURITY OFFICER ACCOMPANIED HARRIS TO FEDERAL POLICE PRECINCT NUMBER 33 WHERE A FORMAL COMPLAINT WAS EXECUTED BY MAUGHAN CONCERNING THE TELEPHONE CALL. SUBSEQUENT TO THE EXECUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT THE SECURITY OFFICER ACCOMPANIED HARRIS TO THE

CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING VISITOR CONTROL AT THE BUILDING. IT WAS FOUND THAT FREE ACCESS WAS ALLOWED TO THE BUILDING AND THE SECURITY OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT A RECEPTIONIST BE ACQUIRED WHO WOULD CONTROL ACCESS TO THE BUILDING THROUGH AN ELECTRIC LOCK PROCEDURE AFTER IDENTIFICATION. HARRIS AGREED THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE OFFICE AND CONSIDERATION WOULD BE MADE TO PLACE IT INTO EFFECT.

5. MR. HARRIS RE CONTACTED JANUARY 5 AND REQUESTED TO FURNISH INFORMATION ON ERP MEMBER. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE SECURITY OFFICER SO THAT AN APPROPRIATE CHECK MAY BE MADE WITH THE FEDERAL POLICE AND SOME ATTEMPT MAY BE MADE TO EVALUATE THE TELEPHONE THREAT.  
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